

Governor Shumlin announces Disaster Recovery Grants

\$1.1 million will help communities and businesses rebuild and plan for the future.

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News Release

Flood recovery continues in communities throughout the state. Businesses, organizations and local governments will receive more help with awards announced today by Gov. Peter Shumlin.

“As a second winter approaches, many Vermonters still need help recovering from Irene,” said the Governor. “This funding continues our efforts to make housing safer, businesses stronger and help restore critical community infrastructure.”

The awards will assist the Village and Town of Waterbury repair a damaged sewage pump station, and plan for the development of a multi-use recreation trail connecting the downtown to Little River State Park further diversifying and improving Waterbury’s economy. In addition, the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation and Springfield Regional Development Corporation have partnered to use \$1 million for grants and loans targeted to businesses still struggling to pay for damages or losses in Southern Windsor & Windham counties.

Today’s announcement represents the second round of funding made available from \$21.7 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds allocated to the state from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development following Tropical Storm Irene. Senator Patrick Leahy, Senator Bernie Sanders, and Congressman Peter Welch fought to include \$400 million in HUD CDBG disaster funding in the federal budget. Their efforts ensured that Vermont was one of a handful of states that received an allocation of this funding. Leahy, Sanders, and Welch have also worked with HUD to ensure that the funding had less strings attached enabling the funds to be used in some of the most severely impacted communities in Windham County. The awards are based on project reviews by the Vermont Community Development Program staff, funding recommendations made by the Vermont Community Development Board and approval of Secretary of Commerce and Community Development Lawrence Miller.

“These awards are the result of hard work by many individuals and the partnerships formed to make these projects a reality,” said Secretary Miller. “First the work of our congressional delegation, then our Agency staff and Community Development Board to implement the program efficiently and effectively and of course the tireless efforts of the applicants to bring needed resources to their communities. Recovery funding is still available and we look forward to making additional awards in the months ahead and putting this funding to work helping Vermonters.”

More information on the CDBG Disaster Recovery is available at http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities